



St Raymond's Parish

One Family in Love and Joy



Issue 283

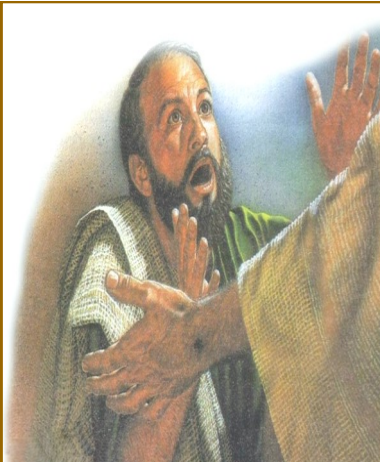
NEW SUNDAY & DIVINE MERCY

19 April 2020

THE GOSPEL

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Jn 20:26-31



Next Sunday:
3rd Sunday of Resurrection
2Tim 2:8-13/Lk 24:13-35

THE EPISTLE

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Cor 5:11-21

New & Divine Mercy Sunday

The second Sunday after Easter is the New Sunday, whereby we celebrate God's Divine Mercy according to Jesus' appearance to St Faustina in 1931. Pope John Paul II announced it to be a formal Feast day in the Church on 5 May 2000. This Sunday's gospel, where Christ appears to the disciples and to Thomas, is truly a celebration of Divine Mercy, not only because Jesus appeared to Thomas to expel his doubts or because He did not hold Thomas to account because of his lack of faith, but because Jesus sincerely shows His mercy to all. How? Mercy is not only forgetting what happened or overlooking something that took place and is forgotten and not punished. In Hebrew as well as in Arabic, mercy comes from the word "womb" (the mother's womb), where the foetus is formed. So mercy is a new creation that allows a person to live in a new way and with a new spirit. When Jesus appeared to His disciples He breathed onto them and said: "Take the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people their sins they will be forgiven." This is the same breath that God breathed when he created Man. Here, Jesus breathed His Spirit onto His disciples, creating them anew and making them children of God and partners in the nature of the divine, in the resurrection and in the inheritance. He makes from them a Church that has the authority to forgive the sins of every person that acknowledges their sins through the sacrament of reconciliation at the hands of the priest and they accept this mercy which makes them a new Christian. After that, Jesus says to Thomas: "Put your finger here and see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it in My side. Do not doubt but believe." This is the command that instilled faith into Thomas. And Thomas responds to the awarding of this new creation by saying: "My God and my Lord."

This is the New Sunday in which Christ creates people anew and gives authority to the Church to forgive the sins of others and have mercy on them. This is the New Sunday, the Feast of Divine Mercy that does not stop from new creation.



"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

ADORATION ON THURSDAYS

Cancelled until further notice.



UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

ARE POSTPONED TILL FURTHER NOTICE.

Let us pray for our sick: Joe, Michael, Antonio, John, Eva, Ray, Rahil, Tony, Arthur, Rochelle, Simon, Hanna, Milad, Christopher, Antoinette & all the sick.

Address: ST RAYMOND & ST JOSEPH THE WORKER MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 37 - 39 Wellington Road Auburn South NSW 2144

Parish Office: 41 Wellington Road Auburn South NSW 2144 | Ph 9643 0345 | M +61 417 171 737 | ABN:53 697 102 280

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This first Sunday after Resurrection is called New Sunday in our Maronite Liturgical Calendar, and it is the Sunday of the Divine Mercy, in the tradition of the Universal Catholic Church.

This Sunday's Gospel tells us about the Apostles, who gathered in a small house for fear of the Jews after the death of Jesus Christ. They had locked every window and door, and they were in a state of grieving. They must have been deeply sad, angry, disappointed, confused and very afraid to say the least. Instead of waiting eagerly to meet the Lord after his resurrection from among the dead, they were fearful.

When the Lord appeared to the Apostles the first time after his resurrection, Thomas was not with them. After that and as soon as the other disciples saw Thomas they told him that they had seen the Lord. However, Thomas was not convinced and told them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails, and my hand in his side, I will not believe". After eight days, Jesus appeared to the disciples again, and this time Thomas was present. He said to him, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe". And St Thomas answered with a cry proclaiming his faith and saying: "My Lord and my God!"

In the Easter tradition of the Church, it is known that St Thomas did not touch our Lord, nor did he ever consider doing so after seeing Him, because he quickly realised that it is Truly Him and he proclaimed his faith without any doubt that Jesus is the Lord and the Messiah, the Son of God.

Today we find ourselves in the same situation as the Apostles and St Thomas. We are locked up in our homes due to the pandemic. Like the Apostles, many of us are feeling deeply depressed, angry, disappointed, confused and afraid to say the least. Many of us are even doubting the relevance of the decisions that are being taken by the authorities, by the Church and even some are doubting the presence of God in this situation. What we are experiencing is not easy at all. To doubt is normal. However, it is our faith that needs to be activated today, like Thomas. At this time in our lives, we need to allow our doubt to lead us to a deeper understanding of greater faith. How? We need to activate every prayer that we have ever prayed, we need to activate the grace of every Mass that we have attended, we need to recall every word that we have read or listened to through the Scriptures, and dig deep into our hearts to find the presence of the Lord, whom we have received through the Eucharist since our first Holy Communion. We need to activate today everything that we have learnt about the Lord and understand it in the light of the times, that we find ourselves in. The situation that we are in is temporary, yet we have the choice to allow this situation to either direct us to heaven or direct us elsewhere.

Let us allow our doubt to lead us to a deeper and greater faith, in order to inherit the kingdom of heaven promised to all those who believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

+ Antoine-Charbel Tarabay



St George - 23 April

George, a Christian officer in the Roman army, consecrated his life to defend the Church, (which is symbolized in icons of him as the daughter of a king) against the attacks of Satan (the dragon). According to tradition, he was martyred in the third century for his faith in Christ and was buried at Lydda in Palestine. A great church was erected over his tomb and the dedication of this church is celebrated on November 3rd. The devotion to this saint has spread throughout the East and the West; the faithful of all rites and nations count him as one of their own. The Cathedrals of Beirut and Sarba are dedicated to him as are a great number of other sanctuaries throughout Lebanon. He is the patron saint of England, the army, young people and scouts. **May his prayers be with us. Amen.**



مار جرجس - ٢٣ نيسان

ولد جرجس في مدينة اللد في فلسطين سنة ٢٨٠. مات والدّه شهيداً إيمانه فربّته أمّه تربيةً مسيحيةً صحيحة. دخل إلى الجندية والتحق بجيش الأمبراطور وترقى إلى

رتبة قائد ألف وأمسى مقرّباً من الملك. أصدر الملك ديوكليسيانس أمراً يطلب فيه من رعاياه جميعاً تقديم البخور للآلهة، فارضأ على المسيحيين الخضوع لأوامره. فتقدّم جرجس ومزق الأمر المعلق في ساحة المدينة. فأمسكه الجنود وقادوه إلى البلاط الملكي. حاول الإمبراطور استمالة جرجس فلم يستطع. حينئذٍ أمر بتعذيبه. فلاقى جرجس أمرّ العذاب، إذ طُرح في أتونٍ مضطرم فلم تؤذه المياه المغلية. جرّته خيول جامحة في وسط المدينة حتّى تفجّرت الدماء من جسده. حاول الملك مرّةً ثانيةً ملاطفته علّه يعود عن إيمانه. وإذ وجد فيه بعض الموافقة قاده إلى معبد الإله أبّلون. ولما دخلوا إلى المعبد، طلب جرجس من التماثيل أن تتحطّم أمامه إذا لم تكن سوى أصنام من حجر. فانهارت التماثيل الضخمة أمامه. عندئذٍ غضب القيصر وأمر بقطع رأس جرجس، وتمّ ذلك سنة ٣٠٣ م. صلاته معنا أمين

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

Services of the week (On Social Media ONLY)

NO SERVICES in our church TILL FURTHER NOTICE

Voice of Charity - Daily Rosary: 9am Arabic / 7pm English

Below is the link for live streaming from St John the Beloved church:
<https://www.facebook.com/KreimMediaAustralia>

Daily Mass @ 6pm: Eng / Arb

3rd Sunday of Resurrection:

11am : Mass - Eng/Arb

6:30pm: Youth Mass - Eng

خدمات الأسبوع

لا قدّاسات في كنيستنا
حتى إشعار آخر

KEEP UPDATED ON

Parish Email:
admin@straymondparish.org.au



@saintraymonds



Saint Raymond's Maronite Parish Sydney



st.raymonds

For sick visits
at home or in
hospital
please call
St Raymond's
parish
office on
9643 0345



For Maronite
Care services,
or any ques-
tions, comments or con-
cerns, please contact us direct-
ly at Maronite Care Office:
1300 627 227 (1300 MAR CAR)



REMINDER

Fr Sam is away
In his absence please contact:
For general enquires: The office on 9643 0345
between 10am-2pm
For Sick Visits: Subdeacon Sid: 0422 886 062
Subdeacon Dory: 0430 511 847
For Funeral or Genez: OLOL, Co Cathedral HarrisPark, 9689 2899

With Your Support, We Will Build Our New Parish

WE HAVE MADE HISTORY — CHURCH LOAN PROJECT UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has assisted us with our Parish Loan Project to buy the Church.

The money received to pay the loan balance is:

1. Funds raised from St Raymond's 1st Gala Dinner 2017: \$532,390.00
2. Funds raised from Parish Loan Project:
 - (a) 77 Contracts from Parishioners \$1,108,000.00
 - (b) Donations from the Project \$260,500.00
3. Funds raised from St Raymond's 2nd Gala Dinner 2018: \$312,000.00
4. Funds raised from St Raymond's 3rd Gala Dinner 2019: \$160,000.00
5. Total Funds Received \$2,357,890.00

6. AMOUNT REPAYED FROM JUNE 2017 TO JANUARY 2020:

To the Bank \$4,496.68 & 71 Contracts to Parishioners \$1,003,000.00

7. LOAN REMAINING AS AT 12TH JANUARY 2020:

To the Bank \$9,869.67 & to Parishioners \$105,000.00

Bank of Sydney: St Raymond's Parish BSB: 942 206 A/C: 1109719

Taking the payment responsibility of:

1. Teaching Choir & PowerPoint Done - Thank you & God bless you
2. The Mobile Phone Bills Done - Thank you to Raymond & Georgette Daher
3. Caltex Fuel Card (\$50 p/w) Done - Thank you & God bless you
4. E-Tag Done - Thank you & God bless you
5. Church Weekly Flowers Done - Thank you to Peter Bazouni
6. Second Parish Office Rent for Pastoral Work - (\$480 per week)
7. Large garbage bin (\$35 per week) Done - Thank you & God bless you
8. Utilities (Gas, Electricity & Water) \$75 per week
9. Parish Priest Accommodation (\$125 per week) Done - Thank you & God bless you
10. Office Phone Bill+ Internet (\$100 per week) Done - Thank you & God bless you
11. Technical Network Maintenance . Done - Thank you & God bless you
12. Photocopier (\$100 per week)
13. Electricity Bills (\$600 per month)
14. Diocesan Levy (\$750 per week)
15. Cutting Grass (\$160 per month) Done - Thank you & God bless you

COMMUNITY ADVERTISING



Fayad & Nadime Fayad

F&N

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Thank you all for
your support and
generosity.
May God Bless you
always.





رعيّة مار رومانوس

عائلة واحدة بمحبة وفرح



١٩ نيسان ٢٠٢٠

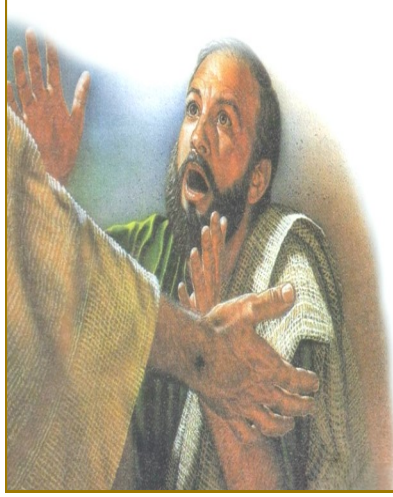
الأحد الجديد وعيد الرحمة الإلهية

عدد ٢٨٣

الرسالة

يا إخوتي، إذا، بما أننا نعرف مخافة الرب، نحاول أن نُنفع النَّاسَ. ونُحْنُ مَعْرِفُونَ لَدَى اللَّهِ، وَلِكِنِّي أَمَلُ أَنْ نَكُونَ مَعْرِوفِينَ أَيْضًا فِي ضَمَائِرِكُمْ. وَلَسْنَا نَعُوذُ فَنُوصِيكُمْ بِأَنْفُسِنَا، بَلْ نَعْطِيكُمْ فُرْصَةً لِلْإِفْتِخَارِ بِنَا نَحْوَ الَّذِينَ يَفْتَخِرُونَ بِالْمَظْهَرِ لَا بِمَا فِي الْقَلْبِ. فَإِنْ كُنَّا بَحَائِينَ قَلْبًا، وَإِنْ كُنَّا عَقْلَاءَ فَلْأَجْلِكُمْ؛ إِنَّ حُبَّةَ الْمَسِيحِ تَأْسُرُنَا، لَأَنَّنا أَذْرَكُنَا هَذَا، وَهُوَ أَنْ وَاحِدًا مَاتَ عَنِ الْجَمِيعِ، فَالْجَمِيعُ إِذَا مَاتُوا. لَقَدْ مَاتَ عَنِ الْجَمِيعِ، لِكِي لَا نَحْيَا الْأَحْيَاءَ مِنْ بَعْدُ لِأَنْفُسِهِمْ، بَلْ لِلَّذِي مَاتَ عَنْهُمْ وَقَامَ مِنْ أَجْلِهِمْ. إِذَا فَمَنْدُ الْآنَ نَحْنُ لَا نَعْرِفُ أَحَدًا مَعْرِفَةً بَشَرِيَّةً، وَإِنْ كُنَّا قَدْ عَرَفْنَا الْمَسِيحَ مَعْرِفَةً بَشَرِيَّةً، فَلَا نَ مَا عُدْنَا نَعْرِفُهُ كَذَلِكَ. إِذَا، إِنْ كَانَ أَحَدٌ فِي الْمَسِيحِ فَهُوَ خَلْقٌ جَدِيدٌ: لَقَدْ زَالَ الْقَدِيمُ، وَصَارَ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ جَدِيدًا. وَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ هُوَ مِنْ اللَّهِ، الَّذِي صَالَحَنَا مَعَ نَفْسِهِ بِالْمَسِيحِ، وَأَعْطَانَا خِدْمَةَ الْمُصْلَحَةِ؛ لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ صَالَحَ الْعَالَمَ مَعَ نَفْسِهِ بِالْمَسِيحِ، وَلَمْ يَحَاسِبِ النَّاسَ عَلَى زَلَّاتِهِمْ، وَأَوْدَعَنَا كَلِمَةَ الْمُصْلَحَةِ. إِذَا فَتَحْنُ سَفَرَاءَ الْمَسِيحِ، وَكَأَنَّ اللَّهَ نَفْسُهُ يَدْعُوكُمْ بِوَأَسْطِنَتَا. فَسْأَلُكُمْ بِاسْمِ الْمَسِيحِ: تَصَالِحُوا مَعَ اللَّهِ! إِنَّ الَّذِي مَا عَرَفَ الْخَطِيئَةَ، جَعَلَهُ اللَّهُ خَطِيئَةً مِنْ أَجْلِنا، لِنَصِيرَ نَحْنُ فِيهِ بِرَّ اللَّهِ.

٢ قور ٥: ١١ - ٢١



الأحد القام:

أحد الثالث من زمن القيامة

٢ طم ٨: ١٣ / لو ٢٤: ١٣ - ٣٥

الإنجيل

قَالَ يُوحَنَّا الرَّسُولُ: بَعْدَ ثَمَانِيَةِ أَيَّامٍ، كَانَ تَلَامِيذُ يَسُوعَ ثَانِيَةً فِي الْبَيْتِ، وَتُومَا مَعَهُمْ. جَاءَ يَسُوعُ، وَالْأَبْوَابُ مَغْلَقَةٌ، فَوَقَفَ فِي الْوَسْطِ وَقَالَ: "السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ!". ثُمَّ قَالَ لِتُومَا: "هَاتِ اصْبِعَكَ إِلَى هُنَا، وَانْظُرْ يَدَيَّ. وَهَاتِ يَدَكَ، وَضَعْهَا فِي جَنْبِي. وَلَا تَكُنْ عَبْرَ مُؤْمِنٍ بَلْ كُنْ مُؤْمِنًا!". أَجَابَ تُومَا وَقَالَ لَهُ: "رَبِّي وَإِلَهِي!". قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: "لَأَنَّكَ رَأَيْتَنِي آمَنْتَ؟ طُوبَى لِمَنْ لَمْ يَرَوْا وَآمَنُوا!". وَصَنَعَ يَسُوعُ أَمَامَ تَلَامِيذِهِ آيَاتٍ أُخْرَى كَثِيرَةً لَمْ تُدَوَّنْ فِي هَذَا الْكِتَابِ. وَإِنَّمَا دَوَّنْتُ هَذِهِ لِكِي تُؤْمِنُوا أَنَّ يَسُوعَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ اللَّهِ، وَلِكِي تَكُونَ لَكُمْ، إِذَا آمَنْتُمْ، الْحَيَاةَ بِأَبَدِيَّةٍ.

يو ٢٠: ٢٦ - ٣١

"طُوبَى لِلَّذِينَ لَمْ
يَرَوْا وَآمَنُوا"

ساعات السجود
أيام الخميس
ملغاة حتى
إشعار آخر



الأحد الجديد وعيد الرحمة الإلهية

الأحد الثاني بعد الفصح هو الأحد الجديد ويحتفل فيه بعيد الرحمة الإلهية على حَسَبِ رغبة المسيح التي أظهرها عند ظهوره للقديسة فوستينا عام ١٩٣١. أعلنه البابا يوحنا بولس الثاني عيداً رسمياً للكنيسة في ٥ أيار ٢٠٠٠. فبإنجيل هذا الأحد حيث يظهر المسيح للرسول ولتوما، هو بالفعل احتفال برحمة الرب، ليس فقط لأن الرب ظهر لتوما كي يجعله يؤمن بعد أن شك بقيامته، أو لأن الرب رَحِمَ توما ولم يحاسبه على عدم إيمانه، بل لأن يسوع في هذا الانجيل يرحم بالفعل الجميع. كيف؟ الرحمة بالعبرية كما بالعربية من أصل "رحم" أي أحشاء الأم، حيث يتكون الجنين. فالرحمة خلق جديد يسمح للشخص بأن يحيا بطريقة وروح جديدة ومختلفة عما كان من قبل. يسوع المسيح عند ظهوره لتلاميذه نفخ ففهم وقال: "خذوا الروح القدس. من غفرتهم لهم خطاياهم تغفر لهم". تلك النفخة هي نفس الفعل الذي فعله الله الأب عندما خلق الإنسان: "وجبل الرب الإله الإنسان تراباً من الأرض ونفخ في أنفه نسمة حياة، فصار الإنسان نفساً حيّة" (تك ٢: ٧). وهنا المسيح ينفخ في تلاميذه روحه، يخلقهم من جديد ويجعل منهم أبناء الله، شركاء للطبيعة الإلهية، شركاء للقيامة، شركاء في الميراث. يجعل منهم كنيسة لها سلطان لمغفرة الخطايا لكل إنسان يعترف بخطيئته في سر الاعتراف المقدس على أيدي الكهنة، ويقبل تلك الرحمة وتجعله مسيحاً آخر. وبعد ذلك يقول المسيح لتوما: "هَاتِ اصْبِعَكَ إِلَى هُنَا فَانْظُرْ يَدَيَّ، وَهَاتِ يَدَكَ فَضَعْهَا فِي جَنْبِي، وَلَا تَكُنْ غَيْرَ مُؤْمِنٍ بَلْ كُنْ مُؤْمِنًا". بهذا يخلق يسوع الإيمان في توما. وتوما يرد ويقول: "ربي وإلهي".

هذا هو الأحد الجديد فيه يخلقنا المسيح من جديد ويعطي سلطاناً للكنيسة لتمجي خطايانا وترحمتنا. هذا هو الأحد الجديد، عيد الرحمة الإلهية التي لا تتوقف عن الخلق الجديد. آمين



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